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Ariyoshi opposes Maui nuclear stand

Gov. George Ariyoshi said yesterday he disagrees with the Maui County Council, which voted to make the Valley Isle a nuclear-free zone.

In fact, Ariyoshi said, he urged the council not to go ahead with the plan shortly before they overrode Mayor Hannibal Tavares' original veto of the bill.

The council approved a largely

symbolic ban on nuclear reactors, weapons and wastes.

Ariyoshi said he has no problem with the ban on reactors. Hawaii's energy future lies in other directions, he said.

But the ban on military use and nuclear waste is not right, the governor insisted.

Maui, like the rest of the state, produces radioactive waste from

hospitals, laboratories and other facilities, he noted. That waste is shipped elsewhere for disposal.

"If everyone took that position it might be difficult disposing of the waste we generate," he said.

As for turning the county's back on nuclear-powered or nuclear-armed ships, Ariyoshi said:

"We are one of the 50 states. We have a responsibility to participate

in that national effort.

"If military ships want to go into Maui, we have no alternative. I would have to support that position.

"To the extent they do not pose a threat or a hazard to the citizens of our community, we have to provide access," Ariyoshi said.

"I believe we have a responsibility as Americans to support the national effort."